BOBBY BURNS' HOME.

Edgar L. Wakeman's Wanderings in Historic Britain.

THE SCOTTISH BARD'S BIRTHPLACE.

Few People Visit Ellisland, One of the Most Charming Places on the Isle-The Home of the Poet and its Surroundings Burns and His Bon-

Special Correspondence of the Intelligencer. ELLISLAND, SCOTLAND, June 2.—Pil-griming among the countless shrines created by the living presence of Robert Burns in southwestern Scotland, and looking down along the flaming shaft of light that links his genius and his worldgirding human love and magnanimity to the fadeless immortality of his memory and name, I have always felt that the one among them all which most breathes to the beholder the spirit of ineffable pathos and tenderness, was this, the bard's farm-home of Ellisland.

ineffalle pathos and tenderness, was this, the bard's farm-home of Ellisland. In the period between May, 1780, at the age of 27 years, and the end of the year 1791, when he came from this Ellisland farm to the three rooms in the "Wee Vennel," in Dumiries, a period of but four and one half years, more personal hope and disapposition, toy and suffering, anguish from impulsive wrongdoing and huaven of the purest domestic blies, temptation and victory, agonized despiar and triumph, were crowded into the poet's experiences, than fall to the lot of most great men in their entire lives. In this brief time, first he was disowned and deserted by Jean Armour, through the bitter and ever unreasoning opposition of her father. He was then betrothed to "Highland Mary" Campbell, the heroine of his immortal ode, "To Mary in Heaven," who shortly died of malignant fever at Greenock.

About 100, of his most characteristic poems were already written, and the now priceless edition of the same had been issued from the rural press of Kilmatnock, in the county of Dumbarton. Twin children had been born to him out of wedlock by Jean Armour, one of whom Robert, in after years a man of rare character and worth, survived the poet 68 years, his decease occurring at Dumfries in 1857, and his body being interred in the Burns mausoleum in that city. Burns' local fame having attracted the attention of the literary corteis at Edimburgh, he was invited to that dity, where he was "affiliated" at the famous lodge of Freemasons (which still meets in the veritable room then used) and subsequently "insugurated" as its poet laureate, the latter event being the subject of a celebrated painting; while he wes made the Sterary Iton of the devents and enlarged actitions. still meets in the veritable room then used) and subsequently "inaugurated" as its poet laureate, the latter event being the subject of a celebrated painting; while he was made the siterary llon of the day, as new and enlarged editions of his poems appeared. He then made a tour of the border counties of England and Soctland, and untarnished by fame, returned to Mauchline, the old home-spot in Ayr, drawn there by his true love for his Jean, who repented her renunciation, and with whom the former, latimacy was renewed. The tour of the North was then made. Burns returned to greater Edinburgh literary triumphs. He was introduced to Mr. Maclehose, the "Clarinda" of his famous correspondence; and again returning to his beloved Jean, took her secretly to Tarbolton Mill, where twins, both of which died, were again born to them.

MARRIED AT LAST.

Being now independent of scandalous opposition, Burns publicly and proudly "acknowledged" Jean Armour proudly "acknowledged" Jean Armour as his wife, then as sacred and binding a marriage in Scotland as any other, and, in this instance, necessary only because debatred formal marriage by the wife's parents, who thus were solely responsible for the cloud upon the poet's marital record. Burns also "satisfied" the church, which in those days was not so very difficult of "satisfaction." He was also in a position to "satisfy" Jean's parents; for on settlement with Creech, his Edinburgh publisher, the then astounding sum of \$2,500 was found to be at his disposal.

Then came the brief, bright days. Magnanimously generous always, much

Magnanimously generous always, much of this sum, the first and last good fortune Burns ever knew, went to Jean's parents, and to assist his brother, Gilbert Burns, to averting disaster in the latter's farm life efforts. His lucky

And then was celebrated the simple but iglorious bomor coming when, with rustic rites, and his bonnie Jean upon his arm, "proceed by a "peasant girl carrying the family hilbs and a bowl of sail," he marched populity into his little and the family hilbs and a bowl of sail, "he marched populity into his little and the sail of the south and, war the real all evidences agree that in the brief partied of a trifle over two years, between Whitsunday 1788 and Martinmas, 170; Burns and his good Jean experienced an Eten of labor and love, despite their final enforced departure. It was also the period of a trifle over two years, between any poets feemally. But more children came to them. Thesemust be supported. The crops failed, and inevitable rail workers also the period of Burns' best and greatest poets feemally. But more children came to them. Thesemust be supported. The crops failed, and inevitable rail workers also the period of Burns' best and greatest poets feemally. But more children came to them. Thesemust be supported. The crops failed, and inevitable rail workers also the period of Burns' best and greatest poets feemally. But may be supported the control of the supported that the supported his good failed the supported the control of the supported the control of the supported his good failed the supported the control of the supported his good failed the support of his work his supported his good failed the support of his work his supported his good failed the support of his work his supported his good failed the support of his work his support of

lowland valleys, and along the entire way from Dumfries to Ellisland, its lovellest views are seen.

NATWELLTOWN'S BRAES.

Leaving the quaint old city of Dumfries, you cross the "new brig" to the west and are at once in the pretty braeside hamlet of Maxwelltown, famous wherever heart-songs are sung for that one inexpressibly tender ballad, equal to anythat Burns himself gave the world, matchiess "Annie Laurie." Then the highway—the ancient coach road between Dumfries and Glusgow—winds over brae and hill, through dale and dingle, over beck and burn, through shadowy avenues and patches of sunshine, past deserted clachans, and now silent olden inns-of-call, with the songs of streams and birds ever in your ears, all the distance to Ellisland. Once past the outlying habitations of Maxwelltown, you will see down there to the right the picturesque ruins of Lincluden Abbey, but a few moments walk from the highway. Beneath the shadows of the majestic walls lies Margaret, daughter of Robert III., King of Scotland. If you will wander but a little distance on that road leading to the left, you will come to the ancient church of Irongray. Here is the grave of Sir Walter Scotl's "Jeanie Deans" (Helen Walker and the inscription on the table tombstone was written by the author of Waverly himself. This picturesque old bridge at which you tarry—for there is a pretty scene of sheep-washing going on beneath the glant willows, just above—crosses the river Cluden, a small stream but a tuneful one. It bounds along merily through cepse and between emerald haughs below, sweeps around the sneient abbey walls, and, entering the Nith, broadens into a deep pool or linn. Hence linn-Cluden, "the Cluden pool," and the name of the grand old monastic pile, Lincluden Abbey, which towers at its edge above.

ELLIBLAND.

Thus all the winsome way to Ellis-

ELLISLAND.

Thus all the winsome way to Ellisland are found pastoral, historic and romanticsoenes and objects. You finally come to a bit of almost champaign country. Comfortable steadings with snug stone cottages lie on either side of the highway. To the right is an ancient gate, opening to a long lane, hedge bordered, between well kept fields, where the young grain is already rich and green. The wagon way is thick with the falling blossoms of the hawthorn. The hedge banks are a mass of gladsome daisies. A tiny burn having its source in springs above, wimples at one is ide hall hidden in the grass and daisies. And at the end of this lane, just over a ridge of warm and yellowy loam, are seen the low roofs of a cottage and its humble outbuildings, here and there half hidden in the folinge of surrounding trees. This is Ellisland, for four years the farm home and home heaven of Robert Burns; the only spot on all this earth where comfort and happiness were his.

From the highway Ellisland is disap-

But Burns knew where to build his Nithside nest. From any point in the vicinity of the onstead or narm buildings there
is a glorious view of the valley of the
Nith. Almost the entire course of the
river is traceable. Coming from its
crystal cradle among the mountains of
eastern Ayrshire, it tumbles along in a
southwesterly course, watering the royal
burch of Sanquhar and the ducal village
of Thornhill, thence passing the stupendons mass Drumlanrig Castle—where
Scott was a guest when the first intelligence and agony of his financial ruin
came upon him. At Auldgirth bridge
the mountains press the stream closely.
Then the river broodens, and sweeps in
gentle sanosities through the widest
expanse of the valley, past Ellisland,
and on to Dumfries and the sea, heightend in its exquisite beauty by myriads ened in its exquisite beauty by myriads of tiny burns, braes and lesser dales which soften the outlines of the greater dale until its whole fair face breathes of sweetness and repose.

THE POET'S HOME.

The louse faces to the east and north a gentle bend in the Nith, which mur-murs here over the shining shallows not a hundred yards distant. With the outmurs here over the shining shallows not a hundred yards distant. With the outbuildings and their connecting rubble walls, a sunny, nearly enclosed quadrangle is formed. The side next the distant highway, to the west, has to the right, as you enter the enclosure, a stable and cowhouse and a byre or feeding strawyard behind. To the left is a mill shed—a modern structure, a tiny barn, and behind the latter (which with the stable and cowhouse stand precisely as burns built them) is the enclosed stack yard where bonnie Jean found her husband in that great agony of dejechusband in that great agony of dejection which gave the world the matchless hymn to Mary in heaven.

The house itself, into the construction of which the poet put months of his own labor, working alongside the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains

bert Burns, to averting disaster in the latter's farm life efforts. His lucky meeting with the ingenious and kindly Patrick Miller, of Dalswinton Hall, had occurred. It had been settled that the poet, who hated the city with a royal hatred, should return to the plough. The nobility of the day never quite forgive this plebian longing and love, the source of his grandest inspirations. This beautiful farm of Ellisiand, five miles above Dumfries, was taken at a rental of £50 per pear. Burns unaided began his farm labors the first Monday after Whitsunday, 1788. He tolied manfully until the autumn of that year, meantime singing many a lusty song to his absent wife, and built the lovely cottage which stands here embowered in roses to this day.

And then was colebrated the simple but glorious home coming, when, with rustic rites, and his bennie Jean upon his arm, "preceded bonnie Jean upon his arm, "preceded bonnie Jean upon his arm, "preceded the latter, the construction of distinguished guests. The latter, the one at the left or north end, which communicates with the little bedroom, was used by Burns for the ceremonious enter tainment of distinguished guests. The Potion his day at the first Monday after white sundance in the house of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of the time, remains to this day exactly as he built it. A small kitchen has been added on the rustic stonemasons of

Jean just below the high bank or scaur, upon the edge of which the cottage stands. Between this and the Nith for

Jean just below the high bank or scaur, upon the edge of which the cottage stands. Between this and the Nith for a long distance to the north and south runs a lovely river road. Out of the cottage enclosure a shaded path and wagon way descends to join the river road. Half way down this almost sylvan way is a copious spring. The bank of the scaurside in the shade is a mass of ferns and violstsy and in the sunshipe a wondrous constellation of "wee crimson-tippet flowers," the daisles of Scotland for which Burns felt something akin to adoration. Then came the silvery shallows of the Nith. Beyond its stream, leading to the meadowlands above is a laugh, a golden mass of waving broom. Along this dreamful way, and up and down the river road, Burns sauntored and dreamed. It was the scene of his most essatic achievement, "Tam O'Shanter," which the celebrated Alexander Smith thought, as it was written in a day, the best single day's work done in Scotland, since Bruce fought at Bannockburn.

Ellisland originally comprised 170 acres of land. The lease to the poet was for four terms of 19 years. It was executed in March, 1783, and would have expired by limitation in 1854. Burns was to pay £50 per year for the first three years, and £70 thereafter; and the owner allowed the poet £300 towards the erection of the cottage and outbuildings. I find the present owner to be one Dr. J. M. Taylor, of Spittlefield, Dunkeld. The steading has been reduced from 170 acres to 100 acres, and it is now leased for the usual 19 yearsterm, 15 of which have expired, to a family of hard-working and intelligent Scotch farmers named Grierson, at a £150 per year. The old guidwife, dame Grierson, seems to live in a sort of halo of reverential grief for him who made her farmstead hallowed ground. "Puir body! puir body! puir body! was dwanged (harrassed) to his dede iil (mortal sickness)!" ill (mortal sickness)!"

EDGAN L. WAKEMAN.

DICKENS IN WASHINGTON.

The Flaming Man In Velvet Picked Up for

A Washington correspondent adds another good one to the specdotes of Diokens. "Dickens was," he said "to put it broadly, at one and the same time, one of the most marvelous writers and unmitigated snobs that ever

breathed.

During his last visit to this country he gave, among his readings, a series of four at Washington, where he stopped some weeks' and where, as elsewhere, he received the most lattering attention. His apartments were at the famous Welcker restaurant, and he was called upon one atteracom, through previously made arrangements, by a party consisting of Admiral Farragut, Hon. Luke Poland, of Vermont, Henry Winter Davis, Major John Fellows. Commissary General Shiras, Captain Hentzell, of the Scorpion, an attache of the French Legation whose name is forgotten; and the writer, who can attact to the truth of the story. When we were shown in the parlor of the French Legation whose name is forgotten; and the writer, who can attest to the truth of the story. When we were shown in the parlor of the suite occupied by Dickens—after having been formally announced and kept waiting some twenty minutes—we found the novelist standing before the fire with his legs stratched apart and his hands under the talls of the most extraordinarily "Joud" walking cont ever seen at the capital. This garment was made of brown velvet, trimmed ever seen at the capital. This garment was made of brown velvet, trimmed with black braid and high lapels, in which was stack a large hot-house rose. In his vest, also velvet, was draped a gorgeous display of gold chain and locket; immensa studied and chair buttons ornamented his embroidered shirt, and an astoundingly bright tie and vivid check pants completed his remarkable outfit. In addition to all this his hair was curled elaborately, his full beard parted in the middle, his fingers bore many rings, and a gold-framed pair of eye-glasses study at his button.

Taking no notice whatever of the admiral's extended hand, and merely favoring the party with a curt half-inei nod, he continued talking in a loud, dictorial tone to a young man, whom

oring the party with a cultivariant of nod, he continued talking in a loud, dictorial tone to a young man, whom we afterward discovered to be his secretary. After standing in an embarrassed group for some minutes, Major Fellows, a venerable, white bearded man of over seventy, whose years should have commanded deference, even if the rank and reputation of such men as Farragut did not, stepped forward and made some remark expressive of regret that the great writer's visit to the capital should be attended by such weather. Dickens listened for a second with almost insulting indifference, and then, walking brusquely to the window, he said: "The weather? Yes, dammit, it's going to rain again," and then, abruptly taking up his hat and walking stick, he said: "I'd better taken ye constitutional at once. Good day, gentlemen," and he

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the incandesent electric light both are capable of preventing explosion and one or the other should be in every coal mine and their use enforced by compulsory enactments rigidly executed.

The principal of these lamps is correst and if made so as to embody completely this principle in their construction they may be taken into the midst of the inflamable gas without danger. How is it done? Simply by keeping the flame and gas from contact. This is better security than the best ventilation can give. A miner may any moment open a vein of natural gas with his pick and produce an instantaneous explosion, which no amount of ventilation could have prevented, In such a case the mine too would be set on fire, as happened at the Newburgh disaster. tion could have prevented. It guest as case the mine too would be set on fire, as happened at the Newburgh disaster. The safety lamp has been known a long time. Why has it not been in general use? During all these years there has been explosion after explosion and horror after horror, yet the use of the lamp is still cruelly and criminally neglected. Only a short time ago an explosion occurred in a mine near Bridgeport, killing four men, and forty more might have shared the same fate had they not been out at the time of the explosion. Is it not high time to throw aside all open lamps and forbid fires in any shape in mines under severe penalties, if necessary, and use only safety lamps, subject to frequent inspection by competent persons to see that they are always in order? Then and not until then will the miner's life be safe and the deadly fire damp cease to destroy so many lives and bring desolation to so many homes.

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